Procurement of know-how from Israel

1396. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to procure the latest know-how from Israel for making Indian desert green as has been done in that country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has been generating and promoting technologies for improving the arid lands of the country. They have developed technologies for stabilizing sand-dunes and improving the productivity of arid pastures, improvement of silviculture, Silvipasture and arid horticulture for fodder production and supplementing income of farmers:

Calamity Relief Fund

1397. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Calamity Relief Fund has been exhausted by Tamil Nadu in providing immediate relief to the victims of floods and cyclone ; and

(b) whether Government propose to take up with the World Bank the project prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu to undertake major reconstruction works in flood affected areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) According to information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu an amount of Rs. 28.63 crores has been spent from the Calamity Relief Fund upto December, 1991 out of a total annual allocation of Rs. 39.00 crores.

(b) The Government of India has not received any project from the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for posing to World Bank for assistance for reconstruction works in flood affected areas.

Mechanised fishing vessels in coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh

1398. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mechanised fishing vessels operating in the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh covering more than 750 Kms;

(b) the number of fishermen, depending upon fishing with the help of catamarams, actually affected ;

(c) The relief measures undertaken to protect such displaced fishermen from the onslaught of the mechanised fishing vessels ; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a Parliametary Committee to study the living conditons of the fishermen living on the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh and suggest measures to improve their living conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) There are about 2200 mechanised fishing vessels operating in the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Central Government have not received any information about any catamaran fishermen having been displaced from his profession because of mechanised fishing vessels, though there are reports about disputes between the two sectors. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, are yet to enact the Marine Fishing Regulation Act as advised by the Central Government in 1978 to protect the interest of traditional fishermen, although it had issued a Notification in this regard.

The Central Govt. have taken a number of steps ito improve the socio-economic conditions of small fishermen by motorising traditional craft, introducing beach landing craft, establishing model fishermen villages, saving-cum-relief :chemes etc. as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. There is no proposal to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to study the living conditions of the fishermen living in the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh.

Poultry Farming

1399. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to accord status of Agriculture for poultry

farming uniformly through-out the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) to (c) Poultry being a State subject only the State Government can accord the status of agriculture to poultry farming. Government of India have recommended to all States/ Union Territories to accord the status of agriculture to poultry farming in respect of production of eggs and table poultry for the purpose of electricity tariff, labour and land laws, institutional financing, sales tax, octroi, etc

Cost of production for crops

1400. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since considered the final report the Hanumantha Rao Committee, on the methodology of the cost of production for crops;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the recommendati ons/observavations regarding the vulation of the farm labour on the basis of actual market rates;

(c) whether the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP had also dealt with some aspects of the matter dealt with by the Hanumantha Rao Committee ; and

(d) if so, whether the decision taken by Government thereon has been conveyed to the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) to (d) The Final Report of the Hanumantha Rao Committee on Methodlogy of the Cost of Production of Crops is under active con:ideration of the Government.

While considering the Final Report, the Government have with it the views of Commis:ion for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) on decisions taken on the recommendations made in the Interim Report of the Committee with regard to valuation of labour, adjustment of announced prices and inslusion of management as an item of input of cost which are reiterated in the Final Report also. The Govt. also have the professional views obtained from the Seminar organised under the auspices of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics on recommendations made in the Interim Report for taking a final view in the matter.

Decline in cotton production

1401. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been as steep decline in cotton production in the last 2 years ;

(b) if so, the State-wise production of cotton during the current year;

(c) the area identified by Government where the production of Cotton has come down ; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to enhance the yield-rate per acre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir Production of Cotton during 1990-91 at 97.6 lakh bales was the highest record production only next to 1989-90. Production of cotton in 1991-92 is also expected to be around the same level as in 1990-91.

(b) The final estimates of production of cotton during 1991-92 has not become due from the States as yet However, as per the current assessment the production of cotton in major growing States this year is as follows:—

(Lakh bales of 150 kgs each)

State	Production
Andhra Pradesh	12.00
Karnataka	6.12
Tamil Nadu	5.00
Gujarat	8.00
Madhya Pradesh	4.00
Maharashtra	14.00
Haryana	12.50
Punjab	25.00
Rajasthan	9.00